

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 TRSE-00 INSE-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00

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CUSTOMS - MR. DICKERSON (SUBS)

INS - MR. REED (SUBS)

EUR/ CAN - MR. THOMSON (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

INFO AMCONSUL TORONTO

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, CA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PRECLEARANCE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER SENT BY US CUSTOMS TO
AIR CANADA APRIL 17:

QTE. MR. CLAUDE TAYLOR, VICE PRESIDENT, AIR CANADA.
DEAR MR. TAYLOR:

THIS HAS REFERENCE TO OUR RECENT EXCHANGE OF
LETTERS RELATIVE TO CUSTOMS CLEARANCE OF AIR CANADA FLIGHTS
TO THE UNITED STATES. IN MY LETTER OF APRIL 10, 1973, I
STATED THAT CUSTOMS WOULD DEVELOP CONTINGENCY PLANS TO
POST CLEAR AIR CANADA FLIGHTS AS OF APRIL 29. AT THE
SAME TIME I ALSO ADVISED YOU THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE STILL
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IN PROGRESS ON THE SUBJECT OF PRECLEARANCE. WE HAVE FURTHER CONSIDERED YOUR REQUEST AND IT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES ON APRIL 5 AND 12.

IT IS NOW OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ELIMINATION OF PRECLEARANCE FOR AIR CANADA COULD RESULT IN THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TERMINATING PRECLEARANCE FOR ALL OTHER CARRIERS. THE EFFECT OF A SUDDEN TERMINATION OF PRECLEARANCE ON THE TRAVELING PUBLIC OBVIOUSLY COULD BE SUBSTANTIAL.

FURTHER, TO HANDLE POST CLEARANCE OF ALL CARRIERS NOW USING PRECLEARANCE WOULD REQUIRE NEW FACILITIES AT U. S. AIRPORTS AS WELL AS REVISED SCHEDULES FOR THOSE AIRLINES NOW USING PRECLEARANCE. THIS COULD NOT BE DONE PRIOR TO APRIL 29.

WE SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT YOU RECONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF REQUESTING PRECLEARANCE AT YOUR NEW TERMINAL IN TORONTO. CUSTOMS WOULD BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE ON A TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT BASIS THE 30 INSPECTORS NECESSARY TO MAN MODULE C. THE INSPECTORS WOULD NEED SOME ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY THEY COULD INSPECT BAGGAGE IN AN EFFICIENT MANNER AND WOULD REQUIRE THAT THE HOLDROOM IN MODULE C BE MADE SECURE. THERE COULD BE NO COMMINGLING BETWEEN PRECLEASED AND OTHER PERSONS AND PROVISION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE FOR THE SECURE MOVEMENT OF THE PRECLEASED PASSENGERS FROM THE HOLDROOM TO THE AIRCRAFT. A PROCEDURE WHEREBY THESE REQUIREMENTS COULD BE MET ON AN INTERIM BASIS HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AGREES THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT IS FEASIBLE AND THAT IT COULD BE INSTITUTED BY APRIL 29. THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD CONTINUE WHILE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DISCUSSIONS TAKE PLACE IN AN EFFORT TO AGREE UPON PERMANENT LONG TERM ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONTINUANCE OF PRECLEARANCE. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT AN AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR ADEQUATE SECURITY SAFEGUARDS WOULD BE CONCLUDED WITHIN 90 DAYS.

IT WAS SUGGESTED BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES AT THE RECENT MEETINGS THAT THE CAPACITY OF MODULE C TO HANDLE PRECLEASED PASSENGERS UNDER THE TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS, WE HAVE DESCRIBED, IS LIMITED. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS COULD BE ALLEVIATED BY THE POST CLEARANCE OF YOUR

NON- STOP FLIGHTS TO LOS ANGELES, MIAMI, AND TAMPA. IF YOU SHOULD ACCEPT THIS SUGGESTION, WE UNDERSTAND THAT OTHER AIRLINES WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO USE PRECLEARANCE ON NON- STOP SERVICES TO THESE POINTS FROM EITHER TORONTO OR MONTREAL.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH US FURTHER DETAILS OF THE SUGGESTIONS WE HAVE MADE FOR INTRODUCING PRECLEARANCE INTO TERMINAL II, WE SHALL BE PLEASED TO DO SO AT YOUR CONVENIENCE.

SINCERELY YOURS, (SIGNED) VERNON D. ACREE
COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS UNQTE

2. ACTION REQUESTED: OTTAWA PASS COPY ASAP TO GOC.
MONTREAL PASS ASAP TO AIR CANADA.

3. WE WILL BE COMMUNICATING BEFORE LONG OUR THOUGHTS ON APPROACH TO GOC TO NEGOTIATE LONG TERM UNDERSTANDING ON PRECLEARANCE. ROGERS

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